



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1947

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By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.)

*Health Department,  
Plymyard,  
Eastham, Cheshire.*





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# Annual Report, 1947

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To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Corporation of Bebington.

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YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The submission of my eighth Annual Report for the Borough of Bebington brings your Health Services for the Borough to a national cross-roads in administration, an experience which is shared by similar authorities throughout the country as a whole. While the information and statistics in this report terminate with the passing of the year 1947, it is not possible for annual reports to be presented before the autumn of the following year, owing to the time which must elapse before the Registrar General's figures are presented to the respective authorities. But during this interval the take-over by the County has been accomplished and I feel the time is opportune to submit a few remarks, even if idealistic and visionary, on the future of the new Health Service, and before envisaging the additional expenditure which is bound to take place I would venture to suggest that we invert the old saying of being "pound wise and penny foolish" and take as our slogan "prevention is better than cure."

In my new and additional work on after-care for all age groups I would stress, even beyond the tuberculous and mentally defective cases, the importance of the old work which was placed in the care of Bebington in 1921, namely, the 0 to 5 group of children together with their mothers, and, secondly in our new work, the care of school children and adolescents. I stress these two branches of our work as those of us who have reached maturity cannot, with the best will in the world, look forward to the recovery for ourselves of the amenities and opportunities which were ours before 1939, but

which may be the amenities and opportunities of the age-group of the population consisting of the children of to-day up to 15 years. There is no gain-saying that life at present, being particularly hard on the parents of average incomes, will, unless we take great care, militate against the physical and mental health of the younger generation. I would, therefore, urge that your officials in the Health Department who go amongst the people, be given all opportunities of spreading their knowledge of welfare to as many families as is humanly possible. I would urge, even to the extent of sacrificing other public services, that you advance and support the following specific provisions in the interests of that population group I have mentioned :—

1. Extensive building programmes.
2. An increase in the number of Day Nurseries, or an extension of those already functioning.
3. A Maternity Hospital and Children's Home situated locally.
4. Increased Institutional provision for Mental Deficients, such as the School Aycliffe, Co. Durham, and the Gogarburn Institute, in Midlothian, and local provision for "dull and backward" children and those physically afflicted.
5. Adequate transport for the Health Visitors.

Finally I would make a plea for one other service which I have been associated with in the past and which groups the adolescents between the age of leaving school and taking up employment, namely, a junior instruction centre which gives the young people time to look around, and by the experience and advice of the craftsmasters and mistresses in charge enables the boys and girls to choose employment most suitable to their makeup and capabilities, thus minimising the number of "round pegs in square holes." Of course, if full employment and choice of employment can be guaranteed this last plea of mine falls to the ground.

In returning to the more concrete I present the following circumstances which have obtained in the Borough for the year 1947.

### **Population.**

The population of the Borough at my last reporting showed an increase of 3,230 and for 1947 shows a further increase of 1,020, making a total of 46,640 (Registrar General's figure). On going to press August 1948 the latest estimated figure of population is 47,120.

The live birth rate for the Borough for 1947 shows a very slight increase and stands at 19.6 per thousand of population as compared with 19.4 in 1946, but the rate is lower than that for England and Wales, which stands at 20.5.

The death rate shows a slight decrease for 1947, and stands at 10.1 per thousand as compared with 10.8 in 1946 and the rate is lower than that for England and Wales for 1947, namely 12.0.

The infant mortality rate again shows an increase. There were 47 deaths of infants under one year, including 35 under one month. The causes of death are given on page 15 and the following is an analysis of the places of death:—

At home .....	5
Clatterbridge Hospital .....	27
Heathfield Maternity Home .....	4
Birkenhead Hospitals .....	9
Wallasey Hospital .....	1
Port Sunlight Hospital .....	1
	<hr/>
	47

Over a quarter of the neo-natal deaths were due to the prematurity of infants, and there was an increase in the death of infants due to the outbreak at Clatterbridge Hospital of gastro-enteritis with pneumonia complications. This outbreak did not single out Bebington but visited in epidemic form the majority of the larger populations of the country in the last few years. Furthermore, included in the statistics are the deaths of two sets of twins. Of the 47 deaths of children under one year, 32 of the mothers attended the pre-natal clinic and 19 attended the post-natal clinic.

### **Welfare Clinics.**

During the year an additional clinic was opened in Lower Bebington which considerably increased the total attendances of mothers and children at the welfare clinics, the figures for which show an increase over those of 1946 of nearly 20 per cent.

### **Immunisation.**

(a) Under the scheme for **Diphtheria Immunisation** there were 437 children of ages up to 15 years immunised by your Medical Officer of Health during 1947, 134 school children were immunised at school clinics arranged by my department, and 90 school children received re-inforcing doses. General medical practitioners, so far



as my records show, immunised 67 children privately during the year. Excluding children up to one year of age, my statistics show that approximately 64 per cent. of children at present under 5 have been immunised and 67 per cent. of children of school age have been immunised. Eleven cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, but only two of these were confirmed by diagnosis and neither of the cases had been immunised.

(b) Under the scheme for **Whooping Cough Immunisation** there were 321 children under 5 years of age immunised by your Medical Officer of Health during 1947, and my statistics show that from the beginning of the scheme there were 867 children fully immunised up to the end of 1947, and 96 partly immunised. There were 47 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year 1947, one of which had been immunised two years previously at the age of one year. The attack was mild with little whooping and no vomiting. I find it early yet to ask myself to what extent Whooping Cough immunisation has cut down Whooping Cough notifications, but I feel sure that it has done so.

## **Infectious Disease.**

### **(a) Tuberculosis.**

The number of cases detected during the year 1947 was 30 per cent. higher than the number detected in 1946, and the number of deaths was approximately the same as in 1946. The explanation of this increase in notifications cannot be given without considerable further investigation, and a report is being prepared for the Council to show (1) the occupational incidence, (2) the conditions of housing, and (3) as far as possible the wage group in which the maximum incidence occurs. In this latter inquiry I anticipate some difficulty, but I feel it is an important angle of such an investigation from the point of view of food-purchasing capacity.

I would like to raise in the minds of those reading this report the question of adequate nutrition as a prevention of the onset of tuberculosis, and also the amount of artificial pleasure indulged in to-day by young people crowding into the dance halls and picture houses, when for their health's sake they could be more profitably occupying their spare time out of doors.

Finally in endeavouring to analyse the cause for increased notifications one has to pay regard to the increased facilities for diagnosis and, if I may say so, an increased consciousness in the minds of the public and of the medical profession as a whole. In

my opinion, however, these added factors are not wholly responsible for a 30 per cent. increase in notifications, which the Council may remember I anticipated in my annual report for 1946.

### **(b) Poliomyelitis.**

From the Autumn of the year 1946 and throughout the Spring and Summer of 1947 the Borough was visited by a national epidemic of Poliomyelitis, and the total number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge was forty-six. We experienced all grades of severity of the disease and it was noticed that adolescents and adults suffered more severely. There were only two deaths, in adults, and it is believed that in certain of the other cases the use of the mechanical respirator ("Iron Lung") saved life. I feel that this epidemic gave many medical men throughout the country, including myself, a new slant on the fatality case rate of this disease. I personally expected many more cases of a severe and serious nature than the epidemic afforded, which, of course, has been the experience in countries such as Australia and the U.S.A., where this complaint can be regarded as endemic. In fact, some cases were so mild as to be practically unidentifiable until crippling of a minor or major degree to certain limbs manifested itself. I feel sure that there were many slight cases which never came to the notice of the medical practitioner as Poliomyelitis, and I would say almost as many hysterical cases were met which turned out not to be Poliomyelitis.

I may say that your authority was among the first in the North Western region to secure and exhibit the Ministry of Health film on early diagnosis and treatment of Poliomyelitis. The film was shown at Clatterbridge Hospital (by kind consent of Dr. Wilkie) and was exhibited to a crowded audience of the local medical practitioners, nurses, and health visitors of Bebington and of neighbouring authorities. I feel this film served a very useful purpose in placing the profession as a whole on the alert.

### **(c) General Notifications.**

The notifications for 1947 were 14 per cent. more than for 1946, but this increase was more than accounted for by the Measles epidemic, the Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever notifications being nearly halved as compared with 1946.



## **Day Nurseries.**

The Day Nurseries appear to have provided for a greater need than in the year 1946, when there were indications of a falling off in attendance owing, no doubt, to many mothers having given up paid employment, and at the time of going to press with this report there is what might be termed a clamour for admittance to the Nurseries on account of more mothers wishing to take up paid employment, largely, it must be feared, for economic reasons. I am of opinion that with the further industrialisation which is taking place in Bebington that this demand will increase, and that the provision of an additional Nursery in Bebington would be justified, or extensions added to the present Nurseries.

## **Home Helps.**

I would like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the public generally to the Home Help Service, which was designed firstly for giving domestic assistance during confinements. It is envisaged in such cases that full time domestic help will be provided except during the meal times of the Home Help, and at those times when the duties can be taken on by relatives in the home. Secondly, every endeavour is made to supply Home Helps for limited periods, say two or three hours in the mornings and perhaps for an hour later in the day, during times of general sickness, but in cases of chronic sickness and the care of the aged it is not possible to provide permanent Home Helps. In such cases a Home Help may be provided for an emergency period until such time as the relatives can make permanent arrangements. It will be appreciated that if a permanent Home Help is supplied on an income basis, that is, possibly, at a reduction of even up to 100 per cent., the Service would become one of great burden to the rate payers, and could not be administered with any semblance of justice, as it is probably true to say that there are hundreds of families in Bebington who could usefully employ a Home Help in such circumstances. In short, Home Helps are provided only to meet emergencies of definite duration.

## **Water Supply.**

Regarding the water supply of the Borough of Bebington upon which I have been instructed to report by the Ministry of Health, I have collaborated with C. Hardman, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board, and we are in mutual agreement with the following report:—

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep wells, bores and adits through the installation of steam and electrically-driven machinery.

Boring operations on the new bore-hole at Hooton have been completed and the bore has been driven to 1,000 feet below surface in the triassic sandstone.

Test pumping, carried out night and day over a period of two weeks, resulted in a daily yield of about 800,000 gallons with the water level depressed to 300 feet below surface.

As a considerable period will elapse before the new Pumping Plant on order is delivered, and the Board are desirous of obtaining water for distribution from the new bore hole at the earliest possible moment, the Engineer to the Board has devised and carried out a temporary arrangement, involving the utilisation of portable tanks, sterilising equipment, surface pumps, and bore hole pumps (the latter loaned from the Contractors), and by this means water was obtained from the bore and put into distribution for the first time on Friday, the 25th June, 1948, at the rate of between 800,000 and 900,000 gallons per day.

This temporary arrangement, which was very successful over the first two weeks' operation, will be replaced by permanent plant as soon as possible.

Meantime, the Board are following on this by the driving of a rather similar bore hole on the same site in their scheme for the general development of the Hooton Waterworks.

The water from the three Pumping Stations contains much lime, and the following remarks are identical with those contained in my report for 1946, as so far the West Cheshire Water Board has not been able to revert to its pre-War softening standards; in the case of Prenton to 13.5 p.p. 100,00 before it is distributed, but owing to present conditions, softening operations are suspended pro-tem and sterilisation by chloramination is carried out. In Hooton the water is filtered by Candy pressure process for the removal of a slight trace of iron, and is then softened to 13.5 p.m. 100,000 by a base exchange softening process followed by simple chlorination. In Mouldsworth in normal times the water is softened to about 13.5 p.p. 100,000, but owing to present conditions, softening operations are reduced pro-tem. and the water is softened from about 30.5 to 25.5 p.p. 100,000 followed by sterilisation by

chloramination. The Board intend, however, to resume full-scale softening operations at the earliest possible moment.

The pH reaction from our source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7 to 7.5 and is non-plumbo solvent. The samples from the various sources are bright in appearance, most frequently neutral in reaction, and free from iron and other metals with the exception of the supply from Mouldsworth Pumping Station which shows a negligible trace of iron. All three sources produce a pure and wholesome water suitable for the public supply purposes.

Twenty-four witnessed and certified analyses were submitted by the West Cheshire Water Board to my department during the year 1947.

During the year 1947 no independent analyses of water have been made by this Council of samples provided by the West Cheshire Water Board.

There still remains the one house in the Borough of Bebington which is not supplied directly with water, i.e., Mr. E. Williams, George Croft Bungalow, who obtains his supply of water from Rake House Farm, in Bromborough Rake, and there is one house in the Borough depending on a stand pipe supply, and this is owned by the Council.

### **Milk Supply.**

The sampling of milk continues to be carried out by the Department, and it will be noticed in the statistics given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector that in 1947 the percentage of the cows inspected which were infected with T.B. was 37.54 per cent. as compared with 37.8 per cent. in 1946 and 45.2 per cent. in 1945. As regards the question of the movement of cows between the time of taking bulk samples for tubercular tests and receiving the analyses of such tests, nothing legislative has been introduced to control such movement, and during the period mentioned the farmer may still sell his cows either for milk purposes or for slaughter, which tends to make the discovery of tubercular infection abortive.

In the matter of the souring of milk, some improvement in house deliveries appears to have taken place, and more milk is now delivered in time for breakfast.

Finally I express my thanks to the Council and to my respective Committees for their continued help and support, and further I am indebted to the staff of my Department for their keenness and interest in their work.

I am, Your Worship. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Plymyard,  
Eastham,  
Wirral, Cheshire.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

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Medical Officer of Health : D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. and Glas.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector : E. V. CRAPPER, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,  
M.I.P.H. and H.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors : E. M. DUTTON, A. DAVIDSON,  
W. H. THOMPSON, T. TOWNSON.

One Van Driver, one Drain Tester, one Disinfector (part-time).

### Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk : Miss E. M. GLIDEWELL.

Three Shorthand Typists. One Telephonist.

### Maternity and Child Welfare Staff.

Senior Health Visitor and Child Life Protection Officer :

Mrs. V. R. BLADES (née ELLERINGTON).

Four Assistant Health Visitors :

Miss ROBERTS, Miss NICHOLSON, Miss CHAMBERS, Miss  
ABRAHAM (from July), Miss DEAVALL (from September).

Physio-therapist : Mrs. H. TOTT.

One Shorthand Typist. One Junior Clerk (Vitamins, etc.)

Dr. Hammick and subsequently Dr. McKendrick deputised  
in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health.

### Consultants.

Orthopædic Surgeon : J. K. CAMERON, M.B., Ch.B.

Gynæcologist : MORRIS DATNOW, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Aural Surgeon : G. A. MOULDIN, M.B., Ch.B.

Ophthalmic Surgeon : W. DUNLOP HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B.

Pathologist : J. MORRISON RITCHIE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Glas.), (Birkenhead Municipal Laboratory).

### Day Nurseries Staff.

New Ferry Nursery : Matron—Mrs. F. DAVIES, S.R.N., with 2  
assistants and 7 Students.

Certificated Teacher—Miss ROBERTS.

Bromborough Nursery : Matron—Miss KENDRICK with 1 assistant  
and 4 Students.

Certificated Warden—Miss PICKSTOCK.



### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ... ..	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (end of 1947) ... ..	46,640
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) ... ..	13,141
Rateable Value (end of 1947) ... ..	£371,396
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated) ... ..	£1,490

#### Births.

Number of Registered Live Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	437	431	868
Illegitimate ... ..	23	23	46
Total ... ..	460	454	914

Number of Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	17	4	21
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Total ... ..	18	4	22

Total Number of Births (Live and Still) :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
478	458	936

#### Deaths.

Male.	Female.	Total.
232	238	470

Deaths from :—

Puerperal Sepsis... ..	—
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	1
Premature Birth ... ..	10
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—
Measles ... ..	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	5
Cancer ... ..	86
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	4
Suicide ... ..	4
All other violent causes .. ..	8

Deaths (under 1 year) :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	22	24	46
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
Total ... ..	22	25	47

### Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1947.

	Bebington.	England and Wales.	126 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000 1931 Census).
<b>Births (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—</b>				
Stillbirths ... ..	0.47 ...	0.50 ...	0.62 ...	0.54
Live Births ... ..	19.6 ...	20.5 ...	23.3 ...	22.2
<b>Deaths (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—</b>				
All Causes ... ..	10.1 ...	12.0 ...	13.0 ...	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Smallpox ... ..	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Measles ... ..	0.00 ...	0.01 ...	0.02 ...	0.02
Scarlet Fever ... ..	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Whooping Cough .	0.04 ...	0.02 ...	0.03 ...	0.02
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00 ...	0.01 ...	0.01 ...	0.01
Influenza ... ..	0.00 ...	0.09 ...	0.09 ...	0.08

#### Deaths (per 1,000 live births) :—

Under 1 year of age	51.3	41.0	47.0	36.0
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.4	5.8	8.0	3.7

#### Deaths (per 1,000 total births) :—

##### Maternal Mortality :—

Abortion with Sepsis ...	0.00	0.10	Figures not communicated.	
Abortion without Sepsis	0.00	0.06		
Puerperal Infection ...	0.00	0.16		
Others ... ..	1.09	0.85		
	<u>1.09</u>	<u>1.17</u>		

#### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (Bebington).

All infants per 1,000 Total Live Births ... ..	51.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births...	50.3

#### Comparative Rates.

	Bebington 1946.	Bebington 1947.	England and Wales, 1947.
Per 1,000 Population :—			
Birth Rate—Live Births ... ..	19.4	19.6	20.5
Death Rate ... ..	10.8	10.1	12.0
Per 1,000 Births :—			
Infant Mortality Rate ... ..	51.0	51.3	41.0
Maternal Mortality Rate ... ..	1.14	1.09	1.17

## Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.						M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	13	8	21
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13m.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (male)	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
13f.	Cancer of Uterus (females)	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	9	9
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	27	28	55
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
17.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	29	27	56
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	58	75	133
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	9	7	16
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12	8	20
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	4	12	16
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
36.	All other Causes	...	...	...	...	18	23	41
TOTAL						232	238	470

**Table of Infantile Mortality.**

(Under One Year).

Rate per 1,000 Births.

1932	...	...	...	55.0	1940	...	...	...	67.2
1933	...	...	...	61.0	1941	...	...	...	52.6
1934	...	...	...	48.0	1942	...	...	...	28.0
1935	...	...	...	62.8	1943	...	...	...	62.8
1936	...	...	...	50.0	1944	...	...	...	42.0
1937	...	...	...	49.0	1945	...	...	...	49.0
1938	...	...	...	40.0	1946	...	...	...	51.0
1939	...	...	...	43.5	1947	...	...	...	51.3

(England and Wales, 1947—41.0).

The Total number of deaths of infants during the twelve months in 1947 was 47. Of these 35 were neo-natal deaths, which were distributed as follows:—

**Neo-Natal Deaths.** (Under One Month).

Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Atelectasis of Lung	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (Broncho or Lobar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hæmorrhagic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Aspiration Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inanition and debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Subphrenic abscess	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

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35

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The other 12 deaths were caused as follows:—

Asphyxia (accidental)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

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12

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## Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1947.

## (a) Total cases.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	74	51
Diphtheria ... ..	11†	11
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	9	9
Pneumonia—Acute Primary ... ..	15*	7
"    Acute Influenzal ... ..	10	—
Erysipelas ... ..	8	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	4	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1
Dysentery ... ..	1	1
Measles ... ..	569	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	47	3
Total ... ..	758	100

†Of these 11 cases, only 2 were confirmed by hospital diagnosis.

\*12 nursed at home under the Council's Domiciliary Nursing Scheme.

## (b) Ward Distribution.

Disease	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ... ..	9	9	13	12	4	6	6	4	7	4	74
Diphtheria ... ..	1	2	2	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	11
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	9
Pneumonia ... ..	6	2	3	2	1	2	—	5	4	—	25
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	4	—	—	8
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Paratyphoid ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles ... ..	64	32	140	71	31	35	27	105	13	51	569
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	3	11	13	1	1	6	7	1	—	47
Totals ... ..	90	48	175	100	37	47	42	129	27	63	758



**Tuberculosis.**

(a) New Cases and Mortality notified during 1947.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0 ... ..				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..				—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..				1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 ... ..				6	9	—	2	2	1	1	1
25 ... ..				3	6	1	3	4	6	—	—
35 ... ..				4	6	1	1	2	1	—	—
45 ... ..				4	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
55 ... ..				3	2	1	—	1	—	1	—
65 and upwards				1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...				22	24	8	7	13	8	2	1
				46		15		21		3	
				61				24			

(b) Total live register June 1948.

In Sanatoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Discharged from Sanatoria but not removed from Register...									174
Home treatment or to be admitted to Sanatoria	...	...	...						169
									385

Of the above total 300 of the cases are affected lungs and 85 are affected glands and joints.

## DAY NURSERIES.

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### New Ferry Nursery.

Number of approved places .....	40
Average number of children on Registers throughout 1947 :—	
Group 0—2 .....	8.5
Group 2—5 .....	41.3
Average daily attendance of children :—	
Group 0—2 .....	5.5
Group 2—5 .....	27.8
Payments in Fees for 1947 .....	£714 4s. od.

### Bromborough Nursery.

Number of approved places .....	33
Average number of children on Register throughout 1947 :—	
Group 2—5 .....	34.2
Average daily attendances of children :—	
Group 2—5 .....	18.6
Children under two years of age were occasionally admitted for emergency reasons.	
Payments in Fees for 1947 .....	£424 8s. 6d.

## MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.

The following summary is based upon information and figures supplied by Mrs. V. R. Blades, Senior Health Visitor.

### (1) CLINICS.

#### (a) Maternity Clinics.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. M. Datnow.

##### Ante-Natal Clinic :

Sessions held (Mondays and Fridays) ...	85	
Number of New Cases examined ... ..		404
Re-examinations ... ..		2048

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Total attendances ... ..	2452
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Average attendance per session ... .. 28.8  
 44.3% of total Births in the Borough attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, as compared with 1946 when 54.7% attended.

##### Post-Natal Clinic :

Sessions held ... ..	12	
Number of New Cases examined ... ..		120
Re-examination ... ..		6

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Total attendances ... ..	126
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Referred to Hospital ... ..	2
Referred to own Doctor ... ..	2

#### (b) Infant Welfare and Todd'ers Clinics.

Conducted by Medical Officer of Health  
 (Dr. D. O. MacDonald).

Total Number of Sessions ... ..	286	
Total Children attending Clinics... ..	1574	
Children under one year (new) ... ..		806
Children over one year (new) ... ..		37
Children continuing from 1946 ... ..		731

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1574

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Children's attendances ... ..	14,708
Mothers' attendances ... ..	13,630

## Attendances for 1947 analysed.

	New Ferry.	Lower Bebington.	Brom- borough.	Higher Bebington.	Thornton Hough.	Eastham.	Totals.
Sessions ...	89	21	51	48	26	51	286
Attendances :							
Children :							
0—1	4489	1493	1210	2623	196	1547	11558
1—5	976	222	447	861	204	440	3150
Mothers ...	5171	1333	1862	3003	321	1940	13630
Total attendances of Children and Mothers ...							28338
Medical Consultations at Infant Clinics :							
Attendances of Mothers with Infants under 1 year ...							799
Attendances of Mothers with Children 1—5 years ...							585
							<u>1384</u>

From these consultations:—

28	children	were	advised	Hospital	Treatment.		
14	„	„	„	to	attend	own	Doctor.
28	„	„	„	„	„	Ear, Nose and Throat	Clinics.
15	„	„	„	„	„	Eye	Clinic.
18	„	„	„	„	„	Orthopædic	Clinic.
47	„	„	„	„	„	Sunray	Clinic.
7	„	„	„	„	„	Dentist.	
16	„	referred	to	the	District	Nurse	for treatment.

Routine Inspections at Infant Clinics (Birthday Examinations) :

Children 1—2 years	...	...	...	...	...	22
„ 2—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	7

## (c) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. Philip Garson (Mr. G. A. Moulden after June).

Total Sessions ...	15
Total Attendances ...	131
Number of New Cases seen ...	73
Number of re-examinations ...	58

25 cases referred for operation.

21 cases referred to School Clinic.

41 cases discharged.

(d) **Eye Clinic.**

Surgeon: Mr. W. Dunlop Hamilton.

Total number of sessions ... .. 12

Total attendances .. ... 158

Number of new cases seen ... .. 60

Number of re-examinations ... .. 98

13 cases referred for spectacles.

(e) **Orthopaedic Clinic.**

Surgeon: Mr. J. K. Cameron.

Total Sessions ... .. 21

Total attendances .. ... 498

Number of new cases seen ... .. 133

41 Cases referred to Physiotherapist for treatment.

## Massage and Remedial Exercise Treatments:

				Under School Age.		Of School Age.	
Total Sessions	...	...	94	...	—	...	—
Total Treatments	...	...	731	...	120	...	611
Patients treated	...	...	130	...	29	...	101
New Cases	...	...	41	...	11	...	30
Cases—treatments terminated	25	...	6	...	19	...	19

The following table shows all cases on the Register grouped into disease and age categories, together with the discharges.

Disease.	Under treatment 1.1.47		Admitted in 1947		Discharged in 1947 cured or ceased to attend.		Remaining under treatment 31.12.47.	
	0-5	5-15	0-5	5-15	0-5	5-15	0-5	0-15
Congenital defects, etc.	19	28	7	4	6	5	20	27
Acquired defects, etc.	74	62	65	43	26	25	113	80
Tuberculous infection	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	2
Non-tuberc. Infection	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	1
Unspecified	1	5	10	3	4	2	7	6
Totals ...	94	101	83	50	36	35	141	116



**(f) Sunray Clinic.**

Physiotherapist : Mrs. H. Totty.

Total Sessions ... .. 44

Total treatments ... .. 678

Patients treated ... .. 75

The Clinic was suspended during the summer months of June, July and August.

**(2) HEALTH VISITING.**

Changes in the Health Visiting staff were the replacement by Miss Abraham of Miss Milvenan who resigned in April owing to domestic circumstances, and in September Miss Deavall began duty as an additional Health Visitor.

The services of Mrs. Davies were employed for temporary health visiting in measles and whooping cough cases.

**Visits Paid.**

To expectant mothers (first visits) ... ..	107
To expectant mothers (revisits) ... ..	32
To infants under 1 year ... ..	1842
To children between 1—5 years ... ..	2413
To children under Child Life Protection ... ..	20
To measles cases ... ..	624
To whooping cough cases ... ..	112
To diphtheria immunisation cases ... ..	433
To diphtheria immunisation school clinics ... ..	9
To whooping cough immunisation cases... ..	364
To medical defect cases (orthopædic, ear, nose and throat, eye, dentist) ... ..	23
To post-natal cases ... ..	660
To chicken pox cases ... ..	21
To Tuberculosis contacts ... ..	3
To ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	1
To adoption of children visits ... ..	41
To illegitimate children ... ..	0
Special visits ... ..	600
Visits re Home Helps... ..	46
No access visits ... ..	1162
Attendances at Clinics... ..	1330
Lectures to Nursery Students (Day Nurseries) ... ..	6
Supervisory Visits (Senior Health Visitor) ... ..	852
To Day Nurseries ... ..	10
To Plymyard re medical examinations ... ..	80

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Total Visits ... 10800

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### (3) ANALYSIS OF BOROUGH BIRTHS.

The total number of notified births for the Borough after deducting the 558 transferable births was 918. Of these 21 were stillborn. The borough births belonged in the Borough Wards as below :—

Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
New Ferry	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Port Sunlight	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Bebington	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Higher Bebington	..	...	...	...	...	...	88
Woodhey	...	..	...	...	...	...	113
Poulton	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
North Bromborough	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
South Bromborough	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Eastham	...	..	...	...	...	...	110
							<hr/>
							918
							<hr/>
Males (Stillborn 17)	...	...	...	...	...	...	476
Females (Stillborn 4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	442

Where Births occurred :—

At Home attended by Midwives and Doctors...	...	...	250
In Clatterbridge Maternity Hospital	...	...	312
In Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital...	...	...	1
In Hospital or Homes in Birkenhead	...	...	119
Heswall and West Kirby Nursing Homes, etc.	...	...	32
Heathfield Maternity Home	...	...	204
			<hr/>
			918

72.7 % of Borough Births took place in Maternity Homes or Hospitals.

### (4) PREMATURE INFANTS.

Sixty-nine premature infants were notified, 16 being born at home and 53 in hospitals or nursing homes. Thirteen of the babies died. On the direction of the Ministry of Health special visiting is done, and assistance given where necessary.

### (5) ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Thirty-four illegitimate babies were notified. Sixteen of the mothers were single girls, three of whom subsequently married. The babies are all well cared for, three having been adopted, and three admitted to a "National Babies Home." Many of these infants attend the Council's Day Nursery, and all are under the supervision of the Health Visitors.

### (6) GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF VITAMINS.

Distribution of the above during 1947 to children under five years and to expectant mothers at the New Ferry Health Centre and Branch Centres was as follows:—

			Orange Juice.		Cod Liver Oil.		Vitamin Tablets.
Free Coupons	...	...	141	...	5675	...	795
Paid Coupons	...	...	20212	...	—	...	—

### (7) HOME HELP SERVICES.

During 1947 two full-time Home Helps were employed and in addition casual Home Helps were employed as required. Thirty-four cases were attended for confinement, having booked in advance; twenty-three cases were attended owing to general sickness and sickness following confinements.

### (8) SPECIAL CASES SENT INTO HOMES & HOSPITALS.

One child suffering from a dislocated hip was sent to Leasowe Hospital in September 1946; he remained throughout 1947, and it is anticipated that he will be discharged in September, 1948. He is said to be progressing favourably. Three children were admitted to West Kirby Convalescent Home each for a period of three weeks. One mother was admitted to the Lear Home of Recovery for two weeks.

### (9) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1947, 11, 7, and 49 children up to the age of nine years were respectively under the care of (1) a Preparatory school; (2) a Children's Home; and (3) an Orphanage in the Borough, and were visited at intervals by Health Visitors.

One child was placed in a private dwelling house with a foster mother, in addition to five other boarded-out children from previous years, and during the year they were found to be well-placed and very happy.

**(10) IMMUNISATION.**

(a) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION of children from one year of age was undertaken on clinic days at all the Centres by the Medical Officer of Health.

Children under 5 years completed immunisation in 1947...	...	435
„ „ „ „ partly immunised in 1947 ...	...	95
Children over 5 years completed immunisation in 1947 ...	...	2
„ „ „ „ reinforcing dose ...	...	12
		<hr/>
		437
		<hr/>

Attendances under 5 years ...	...	914
„ over 5 years ...	...	19

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933

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(b) WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION of children was undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health at all the Centres. Children under 5 years completed immunisation in 1947 ... 321

„ „ „ „ partly immunised 1947 ... 96

Attendances of children under 5 years ... 1072

**(11) ADOPTED CHILDREN.**

During 1947 eleven Bebington residents made application to adopt children, and there were 17 legal adoptions. One applicant was found to be unsuitable.

**(12) DENTAL TREATMENT.**

Under the scheme arranged by the Council 7 children received treatment during 1947.

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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area :—

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made				Total for 1947	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses Inspected	...	...	...	1186	979	—	—	60	—
Do. Re-inspected	...	...	...	2720	—	210	570	349	22
Overcrowding	...	...	...	389	—	1	—	—	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	71	—	1	1	—	—
Courts, Passages	...	...	...	62	20	71	56	15	—
House Drainage	...	...	...	1181	248	35	188	50	—
Privy Middens	...	...	...	595	199	—	102	97	—
Cesspools	...	...	...	37	1	—	—	1	—
Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	61	4	—	2	2	—
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	73	12	—	3	9	—
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	17	2	—	1	1	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	613	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	183	10	—	4	6	—
Grocers	...	...	...	206	20	—	6	14	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	86	6	—	4	2	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Confectioners and Cafes	...	...	...	100	16	—	10	6	—
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	72	15	—	9	6	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	25	10	—	5	5	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	53	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies	...	...	...	223	3	—	1	2	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	276	5	—	4	1	4
Sediment Tests	...	...	...	83	—	—	—	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power	...	...	...	28	1	—	—	1	—
Do Without Power	...	...	...	4	1	—	—	1	—
Workplaces	...	...	...	44	4	—	1	3	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	51	8	—	4	4	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	1	—	9	—	—	—
Public Schools	...	...	...	48	6	—	2	4	—
Private Schools	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	16	1	—	1	—	—
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	135	10	—	4	6	—
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	250	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Revisits	...	...	...	100	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	165	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	236	—	—	—	—	—
Appointments outside Office	...	...	...	197	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	9606	1581	318	978	645	30



### Housing Act, 1936.

The following figures relate to work carried out during 1947 :—  
100 Visits have been paid to inspect rent books, to enquire into cases of overcrowding, etc.

6 " Review " Visits have been made.

115 Newly erected houses have been measured.

3 Existing houses have been measured.

25 Applications for " permitted numbers " have been received.

5 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the " permitted number," etc.

5 Warning letters sent.

1 Prosecution instituted.

5 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the name and address of the M.O.H.

5 Warning letters sent.

1 Prosecution instituted.

2 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books information relating to persons responsible for keeping houses in a reasonable state of repair.

2 Warning letters sent.

1 Prosecution instituted.

3 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books statements showing standard rent and permitted increase.

3 Warning letters sent.

1 Prosecution instituted.

41 New Cases of overcrowding.

34 Cases of overcrowding abated.

With reference to the 41 overcrowded families rehoused, involving 164 people, overcrowding ceased by the following means :—

Rehoused by Corporation	...	...	...	19
Rehoused by Private Landlord	...	...	...	5
Rehoused by " Squatting "	...	...	...	3
Abated by removal of sub-tenants	...	...	...	11
Left district	...	...	...	2
Redistribution of rooms	...	...	...	1
Total				41

There were 89 Overcrowded cases known to this Department at the end of the year but these only refer to statutory overcrowding which in every case is serious because of the low standard existing. It does not include those many families who are overcrowded in living rooms and who are living under congested, unsatisfactory conditions. Many of these cases are known by this Department and by the House Property Manager.

An indication of the low standard of statutory overcrowding is given by a survey made by me of an area involving 61 houses. Statutory overcrowding gave this result :—

10 houses overcrowded, or a percentage of 16.3.  
Excluding living rooms and allowing for the occupants sleeping only in the bedrooms provided, gave this result :—

34 Houses overcrowded, or a percentage of 55.7.

The area in question, South View, Sea View, Georges Place and Prospect Place, consists in all except two cases of separate families. They are two-bedroom houses and any standard counting living room accommodation in such property is of little value when the need for more houses is so urgent.

Joint consultations have occurred between the House Property Manager, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector in an effort to deal with the worst cases of overcrowding and the Chief Sanitary Inspector notifies the House Property Manager of all cases of statutory overcrowding coming to his notice.

### **Housing Repairs.**

As indicated in my last two reports, the remedy of nuisances and housing defects are becoming more difficult from an administrative point of view. More visits to each of the premises concerned are found necessary ; some owners are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their property economically, contractors are working under conditions not conducive to the best results and the accumulation of minor defects is tending to lower the standard of tenants' cleanliness.

The type of owner who has always evaded his responsibility has of course had to be dealt with and the Health Committee have fully supported their sanitary inspector in these instances, and summonses were issued in respect of 22 notices not complied with.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has surveyed the area and drawn up a tentative list of property coming within the following categories :—

1. Property requiring early house-to-house inspections to deal with defects existing.
2. Houses requiring reconstruction.
3. Houses requiring demolition.
4. Clearance Areas.

### **Tents, Vans, Sheds.**

No licences were issued in regard to camping grounds but the Department had some difficulty in regard to use of caravans without the necessary facilities and constant vigilance in this matter is exercised.

### **Courts, Passages.**

These are regularly inspected and any defects or lack of cleansing referred to the Borough Engineer whose co-operation is always forthcoming.

### **Sanitary Conveniences.**

There are still

- 33 privies.
- 57 pail closets.
- 49 earth closets.
- 8 chemical closets.

in addition to chemical closets provided for the use of squatters.

Two earth closets were converted into water closets during the year.

Two ranges of trough closets were converted into water closets during the year.

### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

Four certificates of disrepair were issued to tenants under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act.

### **Work Carried Out in Default.**

24 Sanitary dust bins were supplied in default.

At two premises repair work was carried out after obtaining a Court Order, in the one case at a cost of £5 and in the other at a cost of £18 5s. od. These amounts were recoverable from the owner.

### **House Drainage.**

192 smoke tests were applied to house drains, the majority of these being to existing buildings following repairs to or reconstruction of drains.

### Disinfection.

419 beds were disinfected after Infectious Disease.  
 11,416 other articles were disinfected after Infectious Disease.  
 230 library books were disinfected after Infectious Disease.  
 23 rooms were disinfected after Infectious Disease.  
 41 beds were destroyed after Infectious Disease.  
 92 other articles were destroyed after Infectious Disease.  
 (The above includes bedding, etc., from Ellesmere Port and Hoylake).

### Disinfestation.

Rooms treated for vermin	...	...	...	...	89
Beds treated for vermin	...	...	...	...	70
Articles treated for vermin	...	...	...	...	231
Verminous beds destroyed	...	...	...	...	3
Pools, ditches, etc., sprayed	...	...	...	...	51

The Council's tip was regularly sprayed from April to the end of September at the end of each day.

### Cesspools.

There are 287 houses drained to cesspools and septic tanks. 37 visits to these installations were made during the year.

### Public Schools.

Routine visits were made to all the public schools and a considerable amount of work was carried out following the service of notices at the end of the previous year. Work still remains to be carried out at Eastham C. of E. Schools.

### Licensed Premises.

There are 26 licensed public houses and 9 clubs on the Department's register. 135 visits were made during the year.

In my last Annual Report I stated that waste beer was collected through drip sinks to enamel buckets in the cellar, filtered and then returned into circulation. This practice was denied in certain quarters so I made it my business to check on what I had seen previously and was able to confirm my previous statement so far as some licensed houses were concerned. Special visits have been made in regard to this and other hygienic measures and a decided improvement noted.

Two changes in management have occurred during the year. Both these premises are in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Rats and cockroaches were found in one house and cellar, and the appropriate steps taken to disinfest.



## Slaughter Houses.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed ... ..	3248	1721	2068	15766	50	22853
Ante-mortem inspection in- cluding supervision of humane slaughter ... ..	3248	1721	2068	15766	50	22853
Notice of slaughter received.	3248	1721	2068	15766	50	22853
Emergency notifications ...	3	43	11	47	4	108
Post-mortem inspection .....	3248	1721	2068	15766	50	22853
<b>All Diseases except T.B.</b>						
Whole carcases condemned...	1	3	12	32	—	48
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	1518	290	5	2152	6	3971
Percentage of the number in- spected affected ... ..	46.77	17.00	.82	13.85	12.00	17.59
<b>T.B. Only.</b>						
Whole carcases condemned...	13	66	2	—	1	82
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	286	580	—	—	2	868
Percentage of the number inspected affected ... ..	9.21	37.54	.09	—	6.00	4.16

The high percentage of tuberculosis continues and your Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector still feel that the place of origin of all tubercular animals found at the slaughter house should be investigated.

### Food Inspection.

The undermentioned food was found upon examination to be unsound and unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered:—

376 tins of Milk.	114 tins of Meat.
156 tins of Vegetables.	40 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of Prunes.
70 tins of Fish.	82 tins of Fruit.
5 tins of Dried Egg.	38 tins of Soup.
32 jars of Pickles.	14 tins of Jam.
10 bags of Italian Chestnuts.	60 lbs. of Figs.
36 lbs. of Dates.	82 boxes of Pears.
38 cartons of Cheese.	10 jars of Chutney.
764 lbs. of Peas.	8 lbs. of Bacon.
23 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Barley Flour.	155 lbs. of Flour.
17 lbs. Almond Substitute.	28 cartons Sponge Mixture.
47 packets Sauce Powder.	62 lbs. of Fat.
1 jar of Fish Paste.	1 jar of Potted Meat.



## Routine Visits to Food Premises

There are :—

- 37 Butchers.
- 17 Dairies.
- 58 Cowsheds.
- 59 Grocers.
- 22 Bakehouses.
- 32 Confectioners.
- 15 Fried Fish Shops.
- 57 Ice Cream Premises.
- 39 Greengrocers and Fishmongers.

These, in addition to works canteens, are kept under supervision as far as time permits. The production of food under hygienic conditions is of paramount importance, and it is only by frequent visits that the need for strict cleanliness can be emphasised. There is much talk about expensive plant and sterilising utensils, but as a public health officer I stress the advantage of " elbow grease " and good old-fashioned cleanliness.

## Milk Production.

Milk production will soon be going over to the Ministry of Agriculture and the definite improvement shown in our cowsheds, following years of zealous work by the staff of sanitary inspection will, it is hoped, continue. Those who take on the responsibility for this work will not have the background of long experience but they may rest assured of the co-operation of public health officers at all times.

## Cowsheds.

From a structural point of view the cowsheds of this area are satisfactory. A detailed survey a few years ago resulted in reconstruction and repairs being carried out at most farms. There are two matters, however; I would like to comment on. The first is the deliberate interference with good ventilation by the blocking up of air inlets. It is true that in some instances these ventilators have been placed in a position uncomfortably close to the cow, but the cold weather acts as a temptation for the cowkeeper to prevent any air entering through the inlets provided. Instead of the cow receiving pure and fresh air from outside and receiving the first of it, the fresh air, which is compelled to enter through ridge ventilators as far removed from the cow's nose as it is possible to be, has to traverse a long track receiving any droplet infection there might be from other cows and mingling with the atmosphere already polluted with various debris, and this is the cow's life breath. Is it any wonder tuberculosis continues to spread through our dairy herds?

The other matter is the failure on the part of a few cowkeepers to realise that one hundred per cent. cleanliness is necessary in buildings where milk is produced, stored and processed. I still see too many cowsheds where dung channels are filled with dung and where such refuse is not removed as often as it should be. When it is generally realised that the cow's udder is suspended dangerously near their polluting effluents, it will also be realised how important it is to **keep** the dung channels free from dung. If there is one part of the cow that becomes contaminated under filthy conditions it is the udder, the source of our milk supply.

Early morning visits to cowsheds were continued and sediment testing once again proved useful in demonstrating to the producer on the spot whether his methods of milking were satisfactory or otherwise.

120 tests were made and a cleanliness percentage of 84 resulted. The figures for the last few years are as follows :—

1937 ...	No. of tests	254	Cleanliness Percentage	60%
1938 ...	„	160	„	61.2%
1939 ...	„	66	„	61%
1940 ...	„	254	„	61.27%
1941 ...	„	85	„	63.5%
1942 ...	„	104	„	53.46%
1943 ...	„	25	„	31%
1944 ...	„	42	„	38.2%
1945 ...	„	102	„	60.7%
1946 ...	„	118	„	63%
1947 ...	„	120	„	84%

The standard of cleanliness is a local one and has always been a high one: it is therefore gratifying to note the percentage of 84, the highest recorded since sediment testing commenced.

During 1947, the following producers obtained 100 per cent. cleanliness results :—

A. E. Anderson of Thornton Hough.  
 T. W. Davies of Poulton-cum-Spital.  
 Morris Griffiths of Eastham.  
 R. Leech of Storeton.

One cowkeeper was prosecuted for offences against the Milk and Dairies Order and fines totalling £15 were imposed.

### Milk Samples.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of tubercle bacilli is concerned :—

**Produced in Bebington.**

	No. of Samples.	T.B. %
Commercial Milk ... ..	62	6.5
Accredited Milk ... ..	149	4.09
T.T. Milk ... ..	5	—
T.T. (Certified) Milk ... ..	2	—

**Produced Outside Bebington.**

	No. of Samples.	T.B. %
T.T. Milk ... ..	2	0
T.T. (Certified) Milk ... ..	2	0
Pasteurised ... ..	43	0

The reason for 100 per cent. of samples coming into the Borough being free from tubercle bacilli is the fact that it is nearly all pasteurised.

The following figures show the number and results of examinations for tuberculosis during the past 17 years :—

	No.	T.B.	% T.B.
Commercial Milk ... ..	1162	59	5.07
Accredited Milk ... ..	1467	101	6.8
T.T. Milk ... ..	92	—	—
T.T. (Certified) Milk ... ..	87	1	1.1
Pasteurised Milk ... ..	412	—	—
Sterilised Milk ... ..	21	—	—
Goats Milk ... ..	1	—	—

Milk sold as pasteurised is continuously checked to satisfy the tests for efficient pasteurisation and these tests, known as phosphatase tests, gave the following results, together with bacteriological results :—

**Where Taken.**

	Bacteriological.				Phosphatase.			
	No.				No.			
	Taken.	Passed.	Failed.		Taken.	Passed.	Failed.	
Schools ... ..	22	21	1		22	18	4	
Hospitals ... ..	4	4	0		4	4	0	
Others (Dairies and in Transit) ... ..	17	16	1		17	16	1	

**Dairies.**

There are still a few dairies without means of steam sterilisation. but it is noteworthy that their sample results do not differ, to their disadvantage, from those with up-to-date equipment. Strict attention to cleanliness to every respect has achieved more than the purchase of expensive plant. One would like to see means of steam sterilisation available at every dairy, but not to the exclusion of

personal effort. There have been occasions when steam sterilisation has been carried out without efficient cleansing of bottles and unsatisfactory results have followed.

### **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.**

These Regulations came into force during the year and are entailing considerable extra work. The hygienic conditions of preparation are being carefully watched and on the whole the conditions under which this commodity is being produced compared favourably with those under which other foods are being manufactured.

### **Mortuary Accommodation.**

The Council's two mortuaries are cleansed by workmen of the sanitary department. They are always maintained in a condition fit for immediate use, either for the reception of bodies or holding post-mortem examinations. No complaints have been received either from the doctors using the mortuaries, or the police.

### **Legal Proceedings.**

The following prosecutions were dealt with during the year:—  
21 summonses for failing to carry out housing repairs.

There were—

four penalties of £1.

six „ „ £2, two with Court Orders.

one penalty „ £3, with Court Order.

five penalties „ £5, plus Court Orders.

There were—

three Court Orders, without penalties.

one dismissal with costs against the owner.

„ case was withdrawn owing to work having been carried out.

4 summonses for failure to insert requisite information in rent books.

Three penalties of £1 were imposed.

One penalty of £2 was imposed.

1 summons for failing to comply with a notice to cleanse premises was withdrawn as the tenant had been sent to prison on another charge.

2 summonses under Section 10, Shops Act, 1934.

One for failing to provide washing facilities—  
fined £2 and £1 costs.

One for failing to provide sanitary accommodation—  
fined £3 and £1 costs.

4 summonses under Milk and Dairies Order.



One for failing to cleanse cowshed	— dismissed.
„ „ „ „ „ vessels	—dismissed
„ „ „ „ „ sterilise utensils	—fined £7 10s. od.
„ „ „ „ „ cleanse cows prior to milking	—fined £7 10s. od.

### **Shops Acts and Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938**

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Chief Inspector under the Shops Acts 1912-34, reports as follows:—

The administration of the Shops Acts is divided under these headings:—

Responsibility of local authority as Shops Act Authority :

Hours of employment of young persons.

Facilities for meals and provision of seats for females.

Hours of closing, weekly half holidays.

Sunday trading, etc.

Provision of washing facilities and light.

Responsibility of local authority as local sanitary authority :

Provision of sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature.

### **During the year the following notices were served:—**

Failing to provide facilities for meals	... .. 3
„ „ „ „ „ sufficient ventilation and temperature.	7
Insufficient washing facilities	... .. 4
„ „ „ „ „ sanitary conveniences	... .. 5

### **Warnings were given in regard to the following offences:—**

Failure to exhibit required notices	... .. 33
„ „ „ „ „ keep records regarding holidays, etc.	... .. 21
Seats for female assistants not provided	... .. 4
Correct interval for meals not allowed...	... .. 1
Failure to allow assistant a full half-day's holiday	... .. 1
Excessive hours of employment of young person	... .. 1

Prosecutions were instituted in two instances (see details under “Legal Proceedings”).

### **Rodent Control.**

Upon being aware of rat or mouse infestation, informal notices are served upon occupiers informing them that they are under an obligation to rid their premises of rats or mice, but that the local authority will carry out the necessary work if they wish to enter into an agreement.



### Methods of Control.

Poisoning was found to be the quickest and most effective method of killing rats and an 85 to 90 per cent. kill on first treatment was obtained.

Bait of sausage rusk with poison of zinc phosphide was found most effective, but where poison with phosphorus had already been used, we found it was advisable to change to arsenic. Hole baiting, container baiting and surface baiting were all used with good results.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out:—

### Inspections.

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor Secondary.	Supervisory Visits by S.I.'s.
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	— ...	— ...	82 ...	—
By Rat Catchers ...	1 ...	— ...	140 ...	—

### Revisits.

By Sanitary Inspectors ...	— ...	— ...	111 ...	—
By Rat Catchers ...	— ...	640 ...	1856 ...	—
Supervisory Visits by Sanitary Inspectors ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	67
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 640	<hr/> 2189	<hr/> 67

Number of complaints received ...	92
Number of complaints investigated ...	92

### Type of Visits Made.

Dwellinghouses ...	1093
Factories and Workplaces ...	923
Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes ...	3
Offices ...	23
Shops ...	100
Schools ...	26
Refuse Tips ...	68
Sewers and Drains ...	100
Non-agricultural Land ...	281
Places of Entertainment ...	6
Camps ...	36
Piggeries ...	19
Shelters ...	9

Total ... 2687

Referred to County Council re agricultural land ... ..	2
Number of advice notices served ... ..	41
Number of estimates provided ... ..	63
Number of contracts signed ... ..	51
Estimated number of rats found during 1947... ..	1358
Estimated number of rats killed during 1947 ... ..	2413

### **Estimates in Hand.**

64 Contracts for £449 2s. 6d.

### **Conclusive Comments.**

I feel that the time has arrived when further consideration should be given to the adequacy of the inspectorial staff. There is sufficient work in this busy Borough for one Special Inspector to deal with the 400 odd food premises that exist, and our aim should be to at least double the routine visits to these premises by making a quarterly visit to every premises where food is manufactured, stored or from where it is sold.









